

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 5, 2003. In the Office Action, claims 87-95 were allowed, claims 77-79, 84-86, and 102 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. In response, claims 77, 78, 84, 86 and 102 have been placed into independent form to include certain limitations of their base and intervening claims. Moreover, claims 74-76, 81-83 and 97-100 have been revised to now depend on one of the newly formed independent claims listed above. Claims 73, 96 and 101 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and objections since the revisions now place all claims in condition for allowance.

***Conclusion***

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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